THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRADESH): (a)There is no scheme of the Central Government (in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries) to assist the rural poor in setting up village industries only through Government grants.

(b) and (c) No, sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Employment for rural poors

3202. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether rural industries are able to give employment to rural poor in a big way;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures planned to help this sector?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) For several years, the Government has been implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme and the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, both credit-linked subsidy schemes, to assist establishment of rural industries for generation of employment.

Setting up of Nuclear Power Plant in Punjab

3203. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up any Nuclear Power Plant in Punjab to overcome the electricity shortage;

(b) whether Punjab State Electricity Board has also demanded a Nuclear Power Plant for the State; and

(c) if so, the status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) There have been requests received